

Structure/Prospects	Basin
B-201	Mumbai Offshore
KKDW-17	Kerala-Konkan Offshore
KKDWA	Kerala-Konkan Offshore
KK-B	Kerala-Konkan Offshore
Damoh	Vindhyan
Rajnagar	Assam-Arakan Fold Belt

(c) The expenditure on surveys and exploratory drilling by ONGC in 1996-97 was about Rs. 1460 crores. The estimated expenditure for 1997-98 (BE) is expected to increase to Rs. 1625 crores.

(d) The inflow of information from exploratory work is continuously analysed and further data will be collected wherever necessary to determine the potential of the oil/gas finds as and when made. During the year 1997 oil has been struck in Tulsapatnam structure in Cauvery basin and Gas has been struck in Periyappatinam structure in Cauvery basin, Magatapalli structure in Krishna Godavari Basin and Sadewala in Rajasthan basin by ONGC.

(e) In view of the rapidly rising demand for petroleum products, the extent of self-sufficiency will depend on the possibility of large oil discoveries in the future.

[English]

Legal Advisors in Mumbai Port Trust

2880. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of legal advisors/consultants working for Mumbai Port Trust in 1993 and whether the normal procedure of appointment followed in the case of Ms. Kiran Chaudhary's appointment as Legal Advisor in 1993;

(b) the terms and conditions, remuneration and perks offered to her and how did these vary with those offered to others similarly placed in the Trust;

(c) the total years of legal experience of Ms. Chaudhary and did she possess sufficient background and specialisation of handling port trust matters to merit her appointment as Legal Advisor and Member in the Mumbai Port Trust; and

(d) whether the Government have conducted any enquiry into the alleged irregularities and nepotism in her appointment and if so, the results thereof, who are the guilty persons and the action taken against them ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) There were 18 Legal Advisors/

Advocates/Solicitors working for Mumbai Port in 1993. Ms. Kiran Chaudhary was empanelled by Mumbai Port Trust in 19991 for dealing with legal matters in Tribunal and High Court and in Delhi Courts and Supreme Court after following the normal procedure of appointment.

(b) Ms. Kiran Chaudhary was paid a retainership fee of Rs. 3,000/- per month and other charges as per approved scale for appearing/representing in Mumbai Port Trust Legal matters. A comparable Statement of charges payable to her vis-a-vis other advocates is attached.

(c) Since Ms. Kiran Chaudhary was appointed as Legal Advisor-cum-Advocate by the Shipping Corporation of India, the Chief Law Officer and Advocate of Mumbai Port Trust proposed her empanelment as Mumbai Port Trust Advocate.

(d) In the light of a bad advice given by the aforementioned firm in one of the important cases, the Government had examined the matter and issued instructions of all the organisations under the Ministry not to engage the aforementioned firm as their legal advisors. In compliance with this instruction, Mumbai Port Trust had terminated the empanelment of the firm as Advocate/Solicitor for Mumbai Port Trust with effect from 30.4.1996.

Statement

Rates of Payment to Advocates by Mumbai Port Trust

1. High Court Matters

	Motiwalla & Co. Rs.	Kiran Chowdhary Rs.
	1	2
1. Suits/Petitions/Appeals		
(a) Contested	7,500	8,000
(b) Uncontested	6,000	6,500
2. Drafting Charges	1,500	1,500
3. Execution of Decrees	2,000	2,500
4. Obtaining Certified Copies	750	750
5. Declaratory Suits		
(a) Contested	7,500	7,500
(b) Uncontested	6,000	6,000
6. Interlocutory Proceedings in Suits.		
(a) Drafting	900	1,500
(b) Prof. Charges	1,200	1,500
7. Per Hour charges	350	400

II. Matters Before Estate Officer

Shri T.L.S. Nirmal Rs.	Shri R.A.F. Cama Rs.	Shri J.J. Jadeja Rs.	Kiran Chowdhary Rs.
42,00	5,200	3,200	5,000

Anti Labour Practices of MPS Associated Aviation Pvt. Ltd.

2881. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any representation has been received from Centre of Indian Trade Unions, Delhi forwarded by an Hon'ble MP on 23.3.1996 with a reminder on 25.9.1996 about the alleged anti-labour practices of MPs Associated Aviation Pvt. Ltd. (formerly M/s. Sea Hawk) against the employees;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in the matter; and

(c) the facts in details ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Payment by I.T.D.C. Officials

2882. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain ITDC officials have allegedly paid penal amount of Rs. 40 lakhs approximately to Architect firm M/s Designers Combine, on October 30, 1995 without compliance of prescribed procedure and approval of the Administrative Ministry and Finance Ministry;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons and justifications thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b) ITDC has paid an amount of Rs. 40,99,798/- on 30.10.95 to M/s Designers Combine in terms of a decree passed by Delhi High Court after following the prescribed procedure.

(c) and (d) No inquiry is considered necessary because

the Payment has been made in terms of a decree of the Delhi High Court.

Gas Dealerships/Distributorships

2883. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Oil Corporations have awarded the dealerships/distributorships to the relatives of the high officers of Oil Corporations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these allottees fulfil the other eligibility and criteria;

(d) if not, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against such officers; and

(e) whether such allotments have been cancelled, if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) :

(a) to (e) Under normal selection procedure, dealerships/distributorships of petroleum products are awarded by the oil companies through the process of advertisement in the newspapers. Selection is made by a duly constituted Selection Board on the basis of the interviews of the applicants meeting the eligibility criteria relating to nationality, age, education, income, residence, multiple dealerships norm, etc.

Till March, 1996, a few dealerships/distributionships were also allotted by the Government under discretionary powers on compassionate grounds. Relationship of an applicant with VIPs or officials of Government/oil companies, etc. is not a criterion for allotment of dealerships/distributorships and no such information is maintained by the Government.

All files pertaining to allotment of dealerships/distributorships of petroleum products under discretionary quota of the Government made since April 1992 are at present with the Delhi High Court, before which such allotments have been challenged through writ petition No. 4003/95 filed by the Centre for Public Interest Litigation. No discretionary allotment has been made by Government since April, 1996.

As explained above, information regarding allotment of dealerships/distributorships to the relatives of the officials of the oil companies is not available, with the Government. Also the matter being sub-judice, necessary action as to